THE BIOGRAPHY OF THE DEVOTED WORSHIPPER

Islamic Biographies – Volume 1

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Chapter 1: Divine Revelation and the Remarkable Worshipper

Angelic Visit: A Message from the Heavens

Hazrat Jabir (RA) narrated that the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

“Just now, my friend Jibril (AS) came to me and said, ‘O Muhammad! By the One who has sent you with the truth, there is a worshipper among the worshippers of Allah who worshipped Allah on a mountain in the midst of the sea for five hundred years.”

Isolated Devotion: Life on the Mountain

The mountain was thirty by thirty cubits in size and surrounded by the sea, extending four thousand leagues in all directions. The worshipper abandoned his home, family, and wealth to dedicate himself entirely to the worship of Allah on this mountain.

Divine Provision: Sustenance from the Merciful

There was neither food nor sweet water on the mountain, and the surrounding sea water was salty. Allah, in His mercy, caused a sweet water spring the size of a finger to emerge, and a pomegranate tree to grow. The worshipper would spend the day in worship, descend in the evening to perform ablution, eat a pomegranate, drink sweet water, and return to prayer. This continued for five hundred years.

Final Supplication: A Death in Prostration

When the time of his death came, the worshipper prayed that he might die while in prostration and that his body not be altered by the earth until the Day of Judgment. Allah accepted his prayer, and he died in a state of prostration. No human has been able to reach that place to this day.

Chapter 2: The Day of Judgment

Divine Judgment: Mercy or Deeds?

On the Day of Judgment, the worshipper will be brought before Allah.

Allah (SWT): “Admit My worshipper into Paradise through My mercy.”

The Worshipper: “O my Lord! Rather, enter me into Paradise through my deeds.”

Then Allah will command that his deeds be weighed against just one of Allah’s blessings—the blessing of his eyesight. The blessing of eyesight will outweigh the five hundred years of worship.

The Divine Verdict: The Reality of Divine Favour

Allah (SWT): “Take My worshipper to Hell.”

As the angels begin to drag him toward Hell, he will cry out:

The Worshipper: “O my Lord! Enter me into Paradise through Your mercy.”

Allah (SWT): “Bring him back.”

Questions of Origin: Recognizing the Source

Allah (SWT): “O My worshipper! Who created you?”

The Worshipper: “You did, O my Lord.”

Allah (SWT): “Who enabled you to worship Me?”

The Worshipper: “You did, O my Lord.”

Allah (SWT): “Who placed you on that mountain, brought forth sweet water from salty seas, and caused a pomegranate tree to grow that bore fruit once a year? Who granted you death in prostration?”

The Worshipper: “You did, O my Lord.”

Allah (SWT): “Your worship covered but one blessing. Where is the recompense for the rest of My blessings? Take him to Hell.”

Once again, the worshipper will cry out:

The Worshipper: “O my Lord! Enter me into Paradise through Your mercy.”

Allah (SWT): “You took pride in your five hundred years of worship. Where is it now? What have you brought in exchange for the pomegranate tree and sweet water provided to you? Enter him into Paradise by My mercy.”

Jibril (AS): “O Muhammad! Nothing happens without the mercy of Allah.”

Chapter 3: The Price of a Glass of Water

A New Trial: Thirst at the Gates of Hell

On the Day of Judgment, the worshipper will be made to stand five hundred years' distance away from Hell. The heat will parch his throat, and he will burn with thirst.

A hidden hand will emerge holding a glass of water. The worshipper will ask for it.

Unseen Voice: "This water has a price—it is not free."

The Worshipper: "What is its price?"

Unseen Voice: "Five hundred years of sincere worship, free of any showing off."

The Worshipper: "I have it. I give it in exchange. Give me the water."

He will drink the water.

Final Realisation: Submission to Divine Mercy

Then Allah will command:

Allah (SWT): “Bring him back.”

Allah (SWT): “You set the price of the water yourself. What have you brought in exchange for the rest of My blessings?”

The worshipper will fall into prostration and plead:

The Worshipper: “O my Lord! Now I understand—without Your mercy, there is nothing.”

Then, by Allah’s mercy, the worshipper will be admitted into Paradise.